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For Immediate Press Release on February 4, 2022

On January 20, 2022, Madison County was notified by the Virginia Department of Health that a feral cat had tested positive for rabies on January 18, 2022, along Shiffletts Corner Lane. Madison County issued a press release upon the date of notification to inform the public of this public safety concern.

Madison County Animal Control has been working closely with the Virginia Department of Health. The State Local Health Authorities have directed Madison County to consider all feral cats within the area the rabies case occurred, to be trapped and euthanized.

Homeowners in the crisis area were hand delivered a public health notice yesterday, and the County issued a public health notice via the automated phone alert system. This effort was to inform the public to keep all domesticated cats contained on their property to avoid any accidental trapping of those animals.

Madison County authorized its Animal Control Officers to begin trapping feral cats in the vicinity of Shifflett's Corner Lane. The trapping will continue until this public health crisis is over. Rabies is 100% fatal in humans and animals if left untreated. Accordingly, the County has undertaken the foregoing actions to contain this outbreak. We encourage and request for pet owners to vaccinate their animals against rabies. Also, we recommend spaying and neuter your pets to avoid any overpopulation such as feral cat colonies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Health Department at (540) 948-5481 or Animal Control at (540) 948-7042.

Issued by:

Jonathon Weakley
County Administrator